



Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

For the Year 1940

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Barrister at Law.
Medical Officer of Health.

ALFRED LEE, A.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor T. Goodchild (Chairman).

Councillor Mrs. Paterson (The Mayor).

Alderman J. J. Evett (Deputy Mayor).

„ P. R. Eaton.

„ G. J. Thrasher, O.B.E., J.P.

Councillor Mrs. Coventon, M.B.E.

„ F. B. Howard.

„ W. Johnson.

„ E. S. Mackrill.

„ A. West.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John T. C. Sims-Roberts,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Barrister at Law.

SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Alfred Lee, A.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.,

Borough Sanitary Inspector.

Robert W. Johnson, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Additional Borough Sanitary Inspector.

W. Ewart Ruse, C.R.San.I.,

Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector.

CLERICAL STAFF.

Dennis W. Rixon.

Borough of Aylesbury

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
AYLESBURY.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Aylesbury.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the annual report upon the health of the Borough, together with the vital statistics for the year 1940.

It is gratifying to note that there has been no serious deterioration in the physical health of the community, notwithstanding the heavy demands made upon all social services, and the lowering of environmental conditions consequent upon the temporary relaxation of the housing standards prescribed under the Housing Act, 1936.

There can be no doubt that the group hospitals under the Emergency Medical Scheme, with the ever-willing co-operation of their medical staffs have made a very real and valuable contribution towards this end. Although the Isolation Hospital accommodation was severely taxed at one period, its scope being extended by the admission of minor infections formerly nursed at home, no serious epidemics of infectious disease occurred in the Borough during the year.

The parents of children at State-aided and private schools in the Borough were circularised concerning protective immunisation against diphtheria, and arrangements made for free inoculation at the schools or infant welfare centre in the case of children under school age. An excellent response was obtained and 1,054 children were immunised.

Valuable assistance has been afforded to the Health Department by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford.

Contagious diseases and minor ailments requiring institutional care have been accommodated and treated at the two Government Sick Bays provided for the district.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to Mr. A. Lee, the Chief Sanitary Inspector; Mr. J. D. Dugdale, the Borough Surveyor, and all members of the Health Department for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS* OF THE AREA.

Area	3,288 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of:	
(a) resident population, mid-1940	18,400
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940 according to Rate Books)	4,692
Rateable Value.....	£129,601
Sum represented by a penny rate	£497

The chief industries are agriculture, printing, production of butter, cheese and tinned milk, rivet manufacture and hat making.

Unemployment :

At December 31st, 1940.	At December 31st, 1939.
236 women	28 women
98 men	236 men
<hr/> 334 Total. <hr/>	<hr/> 264 Total. <hr/>

Vital Statistics.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	244	120	124
Illegitimate	9	6	3
Still Births—Legitimate	13	7	6
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1940			13.26
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			13.97
	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	194	96	98
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population			10.54
Deaths from Puerperal causes:—			
	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	
Puerperal sepsis.....	0	0	
Other puerperal causes.....	0	0	
	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths of infants under one year of age:—			
Legitimate	12	7	5
Illegitimate	1	1	0
Totals.....	13	8	5

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	47.10
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	44.98
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	111.1

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	24	10	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1	0	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0	0	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0	0	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Pathological Specimens.

Pathological Specimens are examined at:—

1. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, South Parks Road, Oxford, and
2. The Institute of Pathology, Halton (Air-Commodore H. E. Whittingham, C.B.E.).

Voluntary Hospital.

The town and district is excellently served by the Royal Bucks Hospital (115 beds), which is centrally situated in the County and Borough. There is also a new commodious out-patients' department fitted with modern equipment.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Infant Welfare Centre is under the control of the Bucks County Council at Church Row, and is open every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The premises are also used as a dental clinic.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria immunisation has been carried out on a large scale during the year, 1,025 children of school age having been inoculated at their respective schools. Twenty-nine children under the age of five have been immunised at the Infant Welfare Centre.

It is hoped to extend this scheme still further in the near future.

Infectious Disease Hospital.

The Aylesbury Joint Isolation Hospital (45 beds) situated on the outskirts of the Borough, remains unchanged and has served the Borough and surrounding areas satisfactorily during the year.

Ambulance Services of the Borough.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade maintain three ambulances for dealing with accident and other cases. The ambulance services of the Borough are quite adequate.

Government Sick Bays.

The Sick Bay established at Green End House in November, 1939, was transferred to No. 9 Bicester Road, in April, 1940. The total number of patients admitted during this period was thirty-one.

The Sick Bay at No. 9 Bicester Road, continues to deal satisfactorily with minor ailments occurring among evacuees; a total of 136 patients being admitted during 1940.

One hundred and sixty-eight patients were admitted to the Rural District Sick Bay at Waddesdon Institute.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Borough is within the statutory area of the Chiltern Hills Spring Water Company.

A gathering ground well isolated from habitations, and situated at New Ground and Dancers End on the Chiltern Hills continues to produce an excellent supply. Samples are taken for analysis each month from different parts of the Borough and submitted to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, for examination; the result being reported to the Health Committee. All samples were found to be of a high degree of bacterial and organic purity, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Closet Accommodation.

All closets in the Borough are water flushed, there being no closets on the conservancy system in existence.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage of the Borough is satisfactory, and is on the partially separate system, surface water from streets and buildings being discharged to watercourses at various points. Owing to the difference in level, four localities are provided with pumping stations to lift the sewage into the main sewers.

Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage Disposal Works situated near the boundary of the town is unaltered and continues to function satisfactorily.

Public Conveniences.

The supervision of these conveniences is under the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The centre of the town is well served by the conveniences for both sexes under the island in Kingsbury Square, used as a centre for omnibus services, and also the Gentlemen's Convenience adjoining the Cattle Market. There are modern conveniences (erected in 1937) for both sexes at the Vale, High Street.

Public Cleansing.

This has proceeded in a satisfactory manner.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Inspections made under the Public Health Acts were as follows:—

Slaughterhouses	1,177
Butchers' Shops	234
Food Shops	1,506
Dairies and Cowsheds	293
Bakehouses	58
Infected House Visits.....	79
Smoke Observations	2

Smoke Abatement.

Several smoke nuisances have been observed and informal notices served on the persons concerned resulting in great improvement. In most cases the nuisance was caused by the shortage of good quality fuel and experienced labour.

Open Air Swimming Pool, Park Street.

The purification of the water in the open air swimming pool continues to be satisfactory; a sample taken during the peak period proved on examination by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, to be very satisfactory.

Indoor Swimming Bath, Bourbon Street.

Since the closing of this bath in July, 1939, following unsatisfactory reports on the analysis of the water, these premises have been used for slipper baths only.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Twenty-six rooms have been disinfested against bed bugs; "Furmex" gas blocks and "Zaldecide" insecticide being used successfully.

Schools.

The general sanitary condition of the Borough Schools is good, and the water supply is sufficient.

Local Rainfall.

January	2.94 inches	July	2.45 inches
February	1.77 "	August	0.05 "
March	2.28 "	September	0.69 "
April	1.54 "	October	2.62 "
May	1.40 "	November	7.55 "
June	0.93 "	December	1.45 "

Total rainfall for the year = 25.67 inches.

(Figures supplied by Mr. J. D. Dugdale, Borough Surveyor.)

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Pasteurisation is carried out on a large scale at Messrs. Nestlé's and the Aylesbury Co-operative Society's premises. Frequent samples are taken to ensure that the plants are working satisfactorily.

The following milk retailers are licensed to sell "Tuberculin-Tested" and "Pasteurised" milk in the Borough:—

"Tuberculin-Tested."

1. Mr. R. Lanchbury, Hadley Herd Dairies, Hartwell.
2. Messrs. J. Lisley & Son, Tring Road, Aylesbury.
3. Mr. F. J. Davis (Junior), "Homefield," Bierton.
4. Mr. R. S. Pearce, Marsh Road, Stoke Mandeville.

"Pasteurised."

1. Mr. S. W. Walker, Burcott Lane, Bierton.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods.*

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Number killed	1,847	537	1,588	10,951	575
Number inspected	1,847	537	1,588	10,951	575
Whole carcasses condemned...	14	18	12	88	40
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	293	140	7	541	108
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.....	16.62 %	29.42%	1.20%	4.67 %	25.74%
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned...	20	29	1	0	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	117	161	0	0	31
Percentage of the number in- spected with tuberculosis...	7.42%	35.36%	0.063%	0%	5.74%

The total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year was 34 Tons, 2 Cwts., 1 Quarter, 7½ lbs.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Details are given below of the infectious disease notified during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted. to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles	291	21	1
Scarlet Fever	82	81	0
Whooping Cough	53	6	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	16	0	0
Pneumonia	15	1	11
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	12	12	2
Erysipelas	8	4	0
Diphtheria	5	5	2
Dysentery	5	2	0
Para-typhoid	3	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0	0
Typhoid	1	0	0
Encephalitis lethargica	1	0	1

*Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year with Analysis
under Age Groups.*

	0—1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	TOTALS.
Measles	7	14	20	21	33	164	16	6	10	0	0	0	291
Scarlet Fever	0	0	5	4	7	41	12	5	7	0	1	0	82
Whooping Cough ...	7	10	5	7	5	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	53
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	13	1	0	0	16
Pneumonia	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	3	3	1	2	1	15
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	0	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	2	0	3	0	12
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	1	8
Diphtheria	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
Dysentery	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Paratyphoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

Seventy-nine visits were made to infected premises.

Of the 12 cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital with a diagnosis of cerebro-spinal meningitis, the diagnosis was confirmed in three cases. All these patients made an uncomplicated recovery.

One case of severe faucial diphtheria died two days after admission to hospital. The child had not been previously immunised. In three cases admitted the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Three cases diagnosed as dysentery were admitted. The diagnosis of bacillary dysentery was confirmed in two of these cases and both were discharged cured.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- respiratory.	
			M.	F.			M.	F.
0 — ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 — ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 — ...	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
15 — ...	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
25 — ...	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 — ...	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0
45 — ...	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55 — ...	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	7	10	0	0	6	3	0	1

Nineteen visits were made to premises occupied by tuberculous persons.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Public Health Act, 1936, visits have been paid to mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces, and informal action taken where necessary to remedy contraventions of the requirements of these Acts.

The number of factories has been increased and one certificate of adequate means of escape in case of fire has been issued in respect of a new factory.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PARTS I AND VIII.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power ... }	101	9	Nil.
Factories without mechanical power }			
TOTAL	101	9	Nil.

2. Defects found.

PARTICULARS.	Found.	Remedied.	Number of defects	
			Referred to H.M. Inspector.	In respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of Cleanliness (Sec. 1)	4	4	0	0
Overcrowding (Sec. 2)	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3).....	2	2	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4).....	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 7).....	0	0	0	0
<i>Sanitary Conveniences</i> (Sec. 7):—				
Insufficient	0	0	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	0	0
Not separate for sexes.....	0	0	0	0
Other offences	1	1	0	0
TOTAL	9	9	0	0

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises.

It was not found necessary to take any action in respect of outworkers' premises.